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GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Borough of Godmanchester,

FOR THE YEAR 1938,

BY

CHARLES E. HICKS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.

HUNTINGDON:

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TO THE
GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

The Ministry of Health requires information on certain subjects. This information is embodied in this report to save extra printing and time.

Owing to the death of the previous Borough Surveyor early in the year the figures relating to the Housing paragraphs are incomplete and approximate figures entered.

Godmanchester is a Borough situate on the south side of the river Ouse, with an area of 4,956 acres. The Borough proper is located on the banks of the river with many straggling streets and lanes, and spreading over a considerable acreage, flanked on the East and West by extensive commons, which are at times flooded.

The rising ground on the Southern side of the Borough is dotted with farm-houses and homesteads. The soil of the Borough proper is gravel, overlaid with loamy soil, and that of the higher ground Oxford clay.

The population is 2,025.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was 644.

The Rateable Value is £7,702.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £32.

The population is mostly connected with agricultural pursuits.

There is one Hosiery Factory in the Borough employing a considerable number of women and girls. The old Flour Mill has been taken over by "Farmers' Glory," Ltd., makers of cereal foods.

Vital Statistics.

The Births registered were 46, 26 males and 20 females. There were 6 illegitimate children born in the Borough. This gives a Birth-rate of 22·7 per 1000 persons living. The Birth-rate for England and Wales is 15·1 per 1000. There were 3 still births registered.

The deaths registered were 31 ; 15 males and 16 females, an average of 15·3 per 1000 persons living, of these 7 were over 70, 7 over 80 and 2 over 90. The death-rate for England and Wales is 11·6 per 1000. There were no deaths due to pregnancy or childbirth.

There was one death of a child under 1 year of age.

Public Assistance Medical Relief is utilised to a fair extent, principally amongst the older inhabitants, also the Huntingdon County Hospital is used by both In and Out-patients.

The Public Assistance Institution at St. Neots now takes care of Mental cases which are not ill enough to be sent to the Mental lHospital at Arlesey.

The Huntingdon Institution at the North end of the adjoining Borough receives cases of bodily illness and also the aged and infirm who are more or less able to look after themselves, but want a certain amount of supervision.

Nursing in the Home.

Cases of illness are visited by a District Nurse in their homes and cases of infectious disease are conveyed to the Local Isolation Hospital.

Laboratory Facilities.

Food is examined periodically by Mr Solomon Greenberg, Tenison Road, Cambridge, and Clinical material by Dr. Harvey, of Cambridge, through the County Council.

Legislation in Force.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act	...	1890
,, ,, ,,	...	1907
,, ,, ,,	...	1936
Infectious Diseases Notification Act	...	1889
Infectious Diseases Prevention Act	...	1890
Notification of Births Acts ...	...	1907
Shops Act	...	1934

Hospitals.

In Huntingdon there is a Voluntary General Hospital which receives cases from the Borough; an Isolation Hospital for infectious diseases supported by the rates from this and neighbouring Councils. Cases of Small Pox would be taken care of by the Huntingdon County Council.

Ambulance Facilities.

There are two Ambulances used for service in the Borough, one for ordinary cases and one for infectious cases.

Clinics.

There is no clinic in the Borough, but cases of Tuberculosis, Child Welfare, Ante-Natal matters and Orthopedics are dealt with by the Huntingdon Centre under the Huntingdon County Council.

Water Supply.

Water was laid on in the Borough on December 8th, 1936 and many houses are connected to the Main. The supply comes from The Huntingdon Urban District Council's Waterworks and is of excellent quality and quantity.

I hope in time to have every house connected up to this pure supply.

There are a good many wells still in use which I hope will be closed as time goes on.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Sanitary conditions of the District remain in much the same condition now as in previous years. This Council must now consider works for a proper drainage and sewerage system, and thus do away with the very unsatisfactory arrangement of pail closets, and the annoyance it entails to the inhabitants of the Borough.

There are 494 pail closets, 296 of which are situate on property with a main water supply.

Conversion to a full water bourne system of sewerage would be ideal.

There are no privies in the Borough, nor sink wastes connected direct to the drains.

The sewers are mostly stoneware, though there are one or two of the old barrel type.

The sewers are now running very well.

Scavenging.

The Refuse is collected and disposed of by the Controlled Tipping Method. By this means it is hoped to raise the level of the banks of the River and avoid flooding on the Recreation Ground. No extra cost is being incurred.

Inspection.

During the year I have made many inspections of the District.

Sanitary Inspections are embodied in the Sanitary Officer's Report, *vide* page 8.

Schools.

Water is now laid on to both Schools and water carriage system is now installed in the Girls' School. The Schools are kept clean and are well ventilated.

The Schools were not closed through illness during the year

Housing.

Housing accommodation for the labouring classes is of a mixed character. The old thatched cottages are gradually being replaced by more modern dwelling-houses, and the house accommodation is generally improving. Out of 357 working class houses inspected for overcrowding under 1935 Act only 6 were found to be overcrowded. On account of the female labour employed in local factories, the young women who formerly left home for domestic service remain and cause the houses to be fully occupied. During the Canning Season at Messrs. Chivers in Huntingdon, a considerable number of young women come from Peterborough, the near villages and Northumberland, lodge in Godmanchester, thus overfilling the houses occupied by the working classes.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.*

(1)	(*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	40
	(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose	61
(2)	(*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under Section 5 of Housing Act 1936	5
	(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose	5
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	2

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 2

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year.*

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(*a*) by owners ... ...

(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 3

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(*a*) by owners ... ... Nil

(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

C.—Proceedings under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses on which notice served under Section 11 ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... Nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... Nil

(4) Number of dwelling-houses closed ... Nil

(5) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertaking given ... ... Nil

The provision of Parlour type houses by the Council has met local needs. The provision of the Non-Parlour type houses has nearly met local needs, but a few more houses would readily let and are certainly needed.

Generally there is plenty of open space about the houses, the cleanliness of the surroundings in some places is not of a high class, the yards being imperfectly paved and gravelled, but there is a decided improvement yearly in these conditions.

Infectious and other Diseases.

All houses in which Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever appear are disinfected during the first 24 hours.

The following cases were notified under the Act:

Varicella	...	...	3
Tuberculosis	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	12
Scarlet Fever	...	...	5
Erysipelas	...	...	7
Puerperal Pyrexia		...	1
Opthalmia Neonatorum		...	1

Tuberculosis.

There were 2 deaths from Tuberculous disease during the year.

Cancer.

There were 5 deaths from Cancer during the year.

Vaccination.

Vaccination is a dead letter in the Borough, most parents taking advantage of the conscientious objection clause in the Act.

Small Pox.

Cases of Small Pox will be cared for by the Huntingdon County Council.

Isolation Hospital.

The District now sends cases of Infectious Diseases to the Huntingdon Joint Hospital.

CHARLES E. HICKS,

Medical Officer of Health,

Godmanchester Urban District Council.

HUNTINGDON,

June, 1939.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1938.

Total No of Inspections made during 1938 ... 114

,, ,, Notices Served (Informal) 12

Figures not avaiiable represented by ?

Complaints received	Total number of	10
Premises, Houses, etc. (under sec. 91)	No. inspected	3
	Nuisances abated	3
Pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse ...	No. inspected	?
	Nuisances abated	?
Animals improperly kept	No, inspected	?
	Nuisances abated	?
Privy, urinal, cesspool, ashpit ...	No. inspected	?
	Nuisances abated	?
Drain, drain-traps, etc., etc.	No. inspected	?
	Nuisances abated	?
House, or part thereof, overcrowded	No inspected	?
	Nuisances abated	?
Smoke nuisances	No. of observations	?
	Nuisances abated	?
Offensive accumulations	No. inspections	?
	Nuisances abated	?
Other sanitary conditions	No. inspected	?
	Nuisances abated	?
Lodging houses	No. registered	Nil
	No. of inspection	Nil
Slaughter houses and shops	No. licensed or registered ...	3
	No. of inspections	?
Offensive trades (sec. 112 P. Health Act, 1875)	No. established	?
	No, of inspections	?
Canal Boats	No. registered	Nil
	No. of Inspections	Nil
	No. with infectious diseases on board	Nil
Food—seizures of unwholesome ...	No. of	Nil
Infectious Diseases	Houses affected with Tuberculosis	?
	Houses inspected	?
	No. of inspections	?
	Houses disinfected	?
	Schools disinfected	Nil
	Disinfectant used	Formalin
	Lots of clothing disinfected...	Nil
	,, ,, destroyed ...	Nil
Privy Middens	New provided	Nil
	No. repaired	Nil
	No. converted to pails ...	Nil
	No converted to W.C.'s ...	Nil
Pail or Earth Closets	New provided	Nil
	No. converted to W C.'s ...	?
Water Closets	New provided...	?
	No supplied with water ...	?

Ashpits	New provided	Nil
	No. converted to Ashbins...	Nil
Ashbins	New provided	4
Water Supply	Samples taken for analysis...	Nil
	Samples condemned ...	Nll
	Wells closed	Nil
	Wells cleansed, repaired, etc.	Nil
	Public supply substituted for well or pond ...	Nil
	Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered	Nil
	Waste pipes disconnected from drain	Nil

Building Bye-Laws adopted ... ... Nil

The Council has passed a resolution to adopt the model bye-laws of the Ministry of Health (series 4 Buildings).

Total Legal Proceedings, *i.e.*, Summons, etc. ... ... Nil

Convictions ... ... Nil

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

Workshops	Total number on register (including bakehouses)	14
	Number in which nuisances abated	Nil
Bakehouses	No. on Register	4
	No. in which nuisance abated	Nil
	No. of outworkers	Nil
	No. of houses...	Nil
	No. of infected houses ...	Nil

Legal Proceedings *i.e.*, Summonses, etc. ... ... Nil

Convictions ... ... Nil

(*a*) MILK SUPPLY.—Dairies and Cowsheds are regularly inspected and any defects removed where required by the owners under the 1926 order. Samples of Milk are examined in any suspicious circumstances There is a distinct improvement in the Cowsheds in the Borough ; on the whole they are more up to date. Main water supply has been laid on to one cowshed.

(*b*) MEAT.—Slaughter-houses and meat are regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and M.O.H.

(*c*) ADULTERATION OF FOOD.—No Samples taken.

(*d*) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.—No action taken.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.

Dairymen, Cowkeepers and purveyors of Milk (Milk Sellers)—	
No. in District	13
No. Registered	13
No. of Inspections of Premises	26
No. of Inspections during Milking time	14
No. of Premises requiring Whitewashing, Cleansing, etc. ...	14
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	14
No. of Premises requiring Structural or Sanitary Improvements ...	Nil
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	Nil
Have regulations been adopted	Yes
Premises with Well Water Supply—	
No. of	10
No. of from which water analysed	Nil
Dairymen, Cowkeepers, and Purveyors of Milk (Butter and Cheese Makers)—	
No. in District	Nil
No. Inspection of Premises	Nil

MAY, 1939

CHARLES E. HICKS,
M.O.H.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Year ending 31st December, 1938.

General.

(1)	Area in Acres				4956
(2)	Estimated Population				2025
(3)	General Death-rate				15.3
(4)	Adjusted Death-rate				13·65
(5)	Death-rate from Tuberculosis				·98
(6)	Infantile mortality				Nil
(7)	Births	Legitimate ...	43	Total	46
		Illegitimate ...	3		
(8)	Birth-rate				22·7
(9)	Number of dwellinghouses of all classes, ...				644
(10)	Number of working-class dwelling-houses ...				460
(11)	Rateable Value				£7,702
(12)	Sum represented by a penny rate				£32

Causes of Death in the Borough of Godmanchester, 1938.

	Males.	Females
All Causes	15	16
Respiratory Tuberculosis... ...	—	1
Other Tuberculosis	—	1
Cancer	1	4
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	—	1
Heart Disease	3	4
Other Circulatory	2	—
Bronchitis	1	1
Appendicitis...	2	—
Digestive Disorder	—	1
Pneumonia	2	—
Other Respiratory Disease ...	1	—
Diabetis	1	—
Inanition	1	—
Other Defined Causes	1	3

BOROUGH OF HUNTINGDON.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1938.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under one year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes — Certified	1									1
All Causes — Uncertified										
T.B. Peritonitis										Nil
	1									1

Nett Births in the year :—

Legitimate ... 43
Illegitimate ... 3
} Total 46

Nett Deaths in the year of :—

Legitimate Infants ... 0
Illegitimate Infants ... 1
} Total 1

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				1				1
35 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations), 1925.
Public Health Act, 1925, *Section* 62.

No action was taken.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1938, for the Urban District of Godmanchester

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances

Premises. (1)	Number of Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories ... ... (including Factory Laundries)	4	Nil	Nil.
Workshops ... ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	5	Nil	Nil
Workplaces ... ... (Other than Outworkers' Premises)			
Total ...	9	Nil	Nil

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects. Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H M. Inspector 4)	Number offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—				
Want of cleanliness ...				
Want of ventilation ...				
Overcrowding	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation— insufficient				
unsuitable or defective	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
not separate for sexes				
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Ten Years Fatal Cases of :

Year.	Cancer.	Phthisis and Tubercular Disease.
1929	4	1
1930	2	5
1931	4	4
1932	4	1
1933	5	5
1934	4	2
1935	6	0
1936	0	4
1937	9	2
1938	5	2
	43	26